CHINA.

EKETCHES OF THE COUNTRY AND OF THE DAILY LIFE OF THE PEOPLE.

NTIMATE CHINA. The Chinese as I Have Seen With 120 Them. By Mrs. Archibald Little. With 120 Illustrations. Octavo. pp. xv. 615. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. In alluding to a Buddhist ordination in China Mrs. Little observes that while there may be many deep meanings signified in the ritual, she attempts in her book only "to recall the coloring." In nearly all her pages she thus restricts herself, but she provides through her careful representation of the things she has seen a certain amount of raw material from which the reader may draw his own conclusions respecting the national character. Sometimes she does offer conclusions of her own. Thus she admits that the Chinaman lies with marvellous ease and persistence, but she holds a far more favorable view of his general honesty than is held by many other writers. "That crime is not very rife in China," she says, "is sufficiently shown by their having no police force. Foreigners are sometimes shocked by the severity of Chinese punishments, not realizing that it is our excellent police that enable us to mitigate our scale of punishments. But the Chinese are like women in this respect also. They afford an extraordinarily small percentage of criminals to the world's criminal roll, and of these the most part are for petty theft. In business dealings, unlike the Japanese, the Chinese keep to their word. even when it is to their disadvantage to do so. And merely saying 'Puttee book,' without any signed and sealed written entry, held good as a legal transaction all through China, till, alas! an old established English firm, probably already foreboding the failure that afterward overwhelmed it, repudiated a transaction of which there was no further record than the till then two sacred words. Since then the Chinese, like other nations, have recourse to written documents; but so high always is the sense of business obligation among them that each China New Year many men, unable to discharge their obligations, commit suicide rather

than live disgraced."

It is plain that Mrs. Little regards her China with sympathy, and avoids hasty generaliza-She is willing to give the Oriental prevaricator his due. Yet she in constrained to admit that the official corruption which has been painted so often in such sinister colors cannot he explained away, and she describes abuses that show with startling vividness the seemingly ineradicable moral weakness of the na-Mentioning the absence of sanitation in Peking, she notes that there are drains, ancient drains, but the annual official inspection of them amounts to nothing, and the great city remains in an unspeakably unhealthy state. It is a land of shams and middlemen, she declares, and points out that the provincial official who is himself bled by those above him naturally recoups himself as hest he may, so that the chain of dishonesty is endless. If his own roads are in a bad state he conscles himself with the reflection that the roads of Peking are much worse. Throughout the country, she adds, "since the incoming of the Manchu dynasty, it has been people to assemble together and revolt against their alien rulers." Another frightful example for the provincial Governor is "the Tsung-li Yamen, the office created of late years in order to transact business with European nations. Tsung-li Yamen sounds well, but the building is a dirty, dilapidated shed, that might pass muster for a cowhouse on an English gentleman's estate, if it were cleaned and fresh painted." The wretched character of this building indicates the contempt in which the Chinese hold the foreigner, but the latter, in the person of Mrs. Little, returns the compliment by observing that "there is no hope for China under the present dynasty." If the reader judges from some of her anecdotes the fault lies deeper than the court, going down to the very roots of the Chinese character, we may cite one of these revelations of native ineptitude as follows:

over his command. The Chinese did not want to selection is well made. It is as follows: was quietly waiting there. The German was German sent to inform him that all the men would again be drawn up, and that when he raining hard. He at once shouled out his word of command, but as the previous order had not been given, it could not be followed. The German tried to explain this. 'Oh.' said the Chinese General, 'I cannot believe it does any one any good to be kept out in rein like this. Just tell the men they can go away. This will do for today.' So the men dispersed, and the German envalry officer felt that there was the end of his efforts for many years to uphold discipline." Mrs. Little ascribes the disastrous position of

The German officer who had been acting as

China in the war with Japan to the evil influence of the Empress Tze Hsi and Li Hung Chang upon the army, but a story like that just quoted shows how the demoralization must have spread from many sources; in fact, from three-fourths of the official staff. It is pleasant to turn from such considerations as these, from the crucity of foot binding among Chinese women and from the rough manners that characterize family life in a large proportion of the lower classes, to things indicative of enlightenment and gentle feeling. The Chinese are not usually believed to have much if any sentiment, but it was a Chinaman who, on hearing of the death of the woman who was to marry a German friend of his, wrote the following verses;

The wild prunes blossom, red and white, In wintry air
Heavy with orange, in sunlight
The groves are fair.

The pearl-like river, silent, sure,

Glides to the sea:
A spirit, mutinous, but pure,
Sets itself free. Love, flowers, and music erst were thine;
But love, to thee
A blight, was bitter as the brine

Of the salt sea.

Oh, friend! albeit of alien race, For evermore Shall be with me thy noble face, Too sicklied o'er

With a world-sorrow e'en too great

For thy great heart, Since from us, who still serve and wait, Thou would'st depart. Farewell! The swift wheeled ship will bring To thy far West
The tidings, while I, grieving, sing
Thee to thy rest.

Prince Kung, in his memorial to the throne for the establishment of a college for the cultivation of Western science, not unwisely stated that "the object of study is utility." but these verses show that the educated Chinaman can put his training to purposes other than those

describes various national customs significant of a gracious view of social obligations, notably the practice of bestowing gifts upon the visitor at native dining tables, and she has at least one quaintly humorous story to tell. This is of a bridegroom who was absent on business about the time that he was to be married and declined to hasten his return so as to be present on the appointed date. His father could do nothing to persuade him, so his mother dressed his sister in male attire and caused her to take his place at the ceremony. The marriage by proxy held good, though the bridal party is said to have broken up in fits of laughter over the amazing demonstration of maternal authority and inventiveness. The secluded life of the Chinese woman is not incompatible, Mrs. Little reminds us, with the exercise of functions not purely domestic. A Governor's wife, for example, is never expected to go out to pay visits, but that is for the reason that she is the keeper of her husband's official seal. A business man will often say: "I must go home and consult my wife before concluding this bargain." The Chinese woman differs vastly, however, from her Japanese sister. In striking contrast to the elevated life led by the latter are the social habits of the woman of China. "Even when nuns invite ladies to come and enjoy themselves with them," says the author, "It means drinking wine, smoking and playing cards; and not uncommonly, in the west of China at all events, smoking includes opium smoking. In short, the chapters in this volume that convey the most favorable impressions of the Chinese are inevitably suggestive here and there of the great inferiority of the nation to its recent conqueror. Mrs. Little tells the old story of a nation in serious decadence. We should not relinquish her volume without a word of appreciation for the descriptions of scenery, costumes and architecture which enliven her narrative, and for the beautiful illustrations. The latter are unusually clear half tones, taken

NEW BOOKS AND NEW EDITIONS.

from unusually good photographs.

M. Ernest Lefebure's "Embroidery and Lace" is a serviceable and entertaining handbook, the definitions and historical notes being marked by adequate scholarship, and the whole work by an agreeable manner of handling the facts. The translation made by Mr. A. S. Cole, of the South Kensington Museum, is creditable. G. P. Putnam's Sons publish this in a convenient volume with many illustrations. The work aims at instructing needlewomen and at guiding amateurs and collectors. Both purposes are well fulfilled.

The Macmillans have taken over from fis former owners, Lansen, Wolffe & Co. the copyright of "Diomed." Mr. John Sergeant Wise's delightful volume reciting "The Life, Travels, and Observations of a Dog." edition which we have just received from the present publishers of the book was surely necessary. Diomed is a beguiling animal. His reflections and emotions are set forth with an individuality and charm that cause us very nearly to forget what Mr. Wise would surely not have us remember, that Diomed did not the deliberate official intention to neglect the actually make this book himself. The author roads, thus making it the more difficult for the says in his preface that he has made his beloved companion "cover an unusual range," but him of going beyond his natural range. take him in good faith, and enjoy him, from beginning to end. This is by all odds one of the most successful "dog books" ever written.

> That clever novel by Mr. G. Bernard Shaw, "Cashel Byron's Profession," is brought out in a well printed new edition by the Brentanos. Readers to-day will turn to it largely because their curiosity has been piqued by some of the author's recent publications, but it is worth reading for its own sake. The same publishers reprint Lafcadio Hearn's volume of translations from Gautier, "One of Cleopatra's Nights, and Other Fantastic Romances."

Under the title of the "Single Story Series" general at Woosung, close to Shanghal, up to the Doubleday & McClure Company publishes the spring of 1898, gave a most amusing, though the pretty little pocket volumes, in a box, conewhat disheartening, account of his handing taining five of Mr. Kipling's best tales. The have German officers any more, so a Chinese | Man Who Would be King." "The Courting of have German onicers any more, but the did Dinah Shadd," "The Incarnation of Krishna Spain. not arrive, although the men were all drawn up Mulvaney," "The Drums of the Fore and Aft. ns waiting for him, because he had and "Without Benefit of Clergy." Typographsuddenly found out it was an unlucky day; so ically the books are perfectly adapted to the "The Westminster Review" of Molière the poet, he had had his boats moored up a creek, and travelling reader, and the hinding, if somewhat too delicately colored for careless usage, is indignant, and required him once more to fix artistic. A white elephant in a forest clearing. his day. A Sunday was appointed, and the with the sun blazing over a distant mountain ridge, figures on each cover.

saw the Chinese General riding forward he The "Cambridge Edition" of Tennyson issued would give the order, 'Shoulder arms' Present not long ago by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. arms" and then the command would be given gave the complete collection of poems in wholly over. 'But surely I am not expected to ride? I satisfactory form, but the publishers have been cannot possibly ride, replied the Chinese Gen- well advised in reviving the old "Household Edieral. The German persisted he must ride, So tion" of the poet, with the famous illustraon the appointed day there appeared the Chinese tions first published by Moxon in England and General huddled on to a very small pony, with others that have appeared since. The volume two men holding it, one on each side, and a is an octave of nearly a thousand pages, but it third helding an umbrella over him, for it was is not too heavy in the hand, and the text, in double columns, is legibly printed. A portrait of Tennyson serves as a frontispiece, and besides the numerous designs accompanying the poems. there are apposite portraits of various historical personages celebrated in the latter, the illustrations thus reaching a total of one hundred and twenty-seven. Some of the old Moxon pictures have of course been invalidated by time. They were bad to begin with. They seem worse now, But others are still enchanting. Rossetti's "Sir Galahad" remains one of his most characteristic and most beautiful drawings, and Hunt's "Lady of Shalott" exerts undimmed its charm of poetic imagination and sinuous line. This illustration of Hunt's, in fact, is one of his masterpleces. Alone it would have warranted the reissue of the "Household Edition," which is, however, acceptable on every ground.

Mr. Marion Crawford's novel, "The Raistons, originally published in two volumes, is now reprinted by the Macmillan Company in one. It is not one of the author's best works, but everything that Mr. Crawford writes, even his poorest, is readable, and therefore this new edition will probably be justified of itself.

Mrs. John King Van Rensselaer relates in the preface to her "New-Yorkers of the Nineteenth ago a crumpled sheet of paper, bearing a number of names in faded ink, was found in the secret drawer of an old writing desk. "It was identified," she says, "as a visiting list which had been compiled about 1830 by my grandmother, whose husband was at the time the president of Columbia College, and as both the president and Mrs. Duer were descended from the earliest settlers of Mana-ha-ta, and were closely connected with the chief families of the city of New-York, the list contained the names of nearly all the prominent people of the place. Taking the twenty families in the list and their ramifications, Mrs. Van Rensselaer has compiled the series of charts published under the title quoted above. There is no text beyond the brief prefatory notes concerning the families enumerated, but for the purposes of the genealogist the author has provided all that is necessary in the charts. There is also a good index. The work is handsomely printed and bound.

The publishers of "Leslie's Weekly" have issued, under the title of "Leslie's Official History of the Spanish-American War," a tall and many paged volume "compiled and written directly from the official records at Washington, with of commerce and administration. Mrs. Little the indorsement of the President, the Secretary

of War, and of the Commanding Officers of the Army and Navy." The names of Harry P. Mawson and J. W. Buel appear on the title page, presumably as those responsible for the preparation of the text. The record covers succinctly and comprehensively the development of the troubles in Cuba, the relations of the United States to those troubles, and a narrative of the war with Spain on land and sea. Also there is information touching the commerce, climate, productions, history and people of Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippines and Hawaii. The full text of our treaty of peace with Spain is given. During the war "Leslie's Weekly" was among the most enterprising of the illustrated periodicals in securing pictures of battles and of the various countries. These illustrations were either drawn by competent artists or made with a camera. To the number of about fifteen hundred they appear in this volume, and give a really remarkable panorama of the places, personalities and events dealt with in the text The book makes a practical and entertaining work of reference.

'The Army and Navy of the United States: 1776-1898," is the title of a work which is being published by George Barrie & Son, of Philadel-It is to be completed in twenty-five monthly numbers, of which we have received the first four. The large size of the page makes it a little awkward to read the text, but this difficulty can, of course, be overcome by spreading the book on a low table. Moreover, although the text is obviously being prepared with minute care, giving a useful record of the organization and history of both forces, the picture, in this case, is the thing. Two full page photogravures after interesting compositions are included in each number, and through the text are scattered half tones of various sizes. delineating the types in our Army and Navy from 1776 to the present day, historical vessels and other interesting subjects. The drawings of soldiers and sallors, officers and privates, are calculated to show the uniforms and accourrements of the various grades, and this is accomplished clearly and in an artistic manner. This aims at being a popular compendium, and is published in attractive form. It ought also to prove useful for students of history.

The G. & C. Merriam Company, of Spring field, publishes "Webster's Collegiate Dictiona handy volume, abridged from "Webster's International Dictionary." The book, though comparatively small, is, of course, still voluminous. The object has been to simplify as much as to abridge. Thus the vocabulary is pruned of the less familiar technical terms, of many obsolete and rare literary words, each word defined is given its place in the alphabetical order of the column, and the practical convenience of the general reader has been throughout considered. The illustrations are still numerous.

LITERARY NOTES.

It is understood that the character of Crom well has long been a favorite subject of study with Governor Roosevelt, and the readers of interest the series of papers in which he will and statesman. The work will run through six numbers of the magazine, and will be richly illustrated. Mr. Morley's history of Cromwell will be running at the same time in "The Century." and we believe that each will add zest

There is a rumor that Cowper's house at Olney is to be presented by its owner to the Royal Historical Society

Mr. Newholt, the author of "Admirals All," has made a volume of selections from Frois sart's chronicles, and it has been illustrated with facsimiles of descriptive drawings contemporary with the chronicles themselves.

A complete edition in two volumes of Miss Mathilde Blind's poems is announced in London. Mr Arthur Symons has edited it and Dr. Richard Garneit has written an introduction.

Professor Benjamin I. Wheeler's study of Alexander the Great is to be published in book ame firm is also m by the Putnams. bringing out Major Hume's book on modern

An Englishman writing enthusiastically in ends his paper thus:

There still remains an aspect I wish to touch on, a sum up of all the other aspects, a picture of one whose life was simple and true, manly and generous; one who was thoughtful of his fellows, whose last recorded action, when in the throes of the illness destined in a few hours to kill him, was full of noble forethought and courage; one chary of words and given to ful-filling more than his speech; one who in his are There still remains an aspect I wish to touch filling more than his speech; one who in his art was never lavish of ornamental writing; but one who both in his life and in his art stood up one who both in his life and in his art stood up for the great and simple things, true loves, sweet unselfishnesses, and manly and womanly realities, against the paltry, pompous things and the selfishnesses and unrealities of life; one who could fight with more than a soldier's mere blood courage, fight dauntlessly against the ter-rible abuses of men, and go on fighting in spite of all threats and discouragement and the howling calumnies of the bestial crowd—I speak of Mulikar the Man. of Molière the Man.

Mr. Charles Dana Gibson's story, told in drawings, of the varied experiences of little Mr. Pipp. is coming out in book form within a few weeks The volume will be uniform with his previous

Miss Beltram-Edwards thinks that Charlotte Bronte was far from just to the Brussels school mistress, Mme, Heger, in "Villette." She has lately visited friends of the Hegers, the originals of M. Paul and Mme. Beck, with whom she discussed the two. "Never, surely," she says, was human being more unkindly treated by novelist than poor Mme. Heger by her articled pupil. As I studied the calm, intelligent, dignified face of the old Belgian lady (in the portrait) before me I could well believe all that my hostess said of her. 'Mme. Heger was in every respect a remarkable woman, and it can be said that the greater number of well educated elderly women now living in Brussels were her pupils. She was the very soul of order, and her establishment was of the first class. M. Heger also possessed unusual accomplishments. His powers as an elecutionist were remarkable, no one in his time was said to surpres him in the art of reading aloud. The pair were devoted to each other, and their three daughters, two of whom are now living, were most carefully brought up. Charlotte Brontë's pictures of the school life were doubtless due to the distastefulness of her foreign and Catholic surroundings She was evidently very unhappy at Brussels.' M. Heger, the Paul of 'Lucy Snowe,' as represented by a bronze bust, was a man of great mental power and decision of character. The pair, I was told, of late years never alluded to 'Villette' or its author, and any vexation that had arisen therefrom was

Sir Theodore Martin, of the "Bon Gaultier Bailads," is erecting a pulpit in Shakespeare's church, at Stratford on Avon. It is to be a beautiful piece of work, and is intended as a memorial of the late Lady Martin, who, as Helen Faucit, was in her youth a charming Shakespearian actress.

The India Office Library has a magnificent collection of Eastern manuscripts, one which is pronounced unique. It has probably four or five times as many Sanscrit manuscripts as the British Museum. In Persian manuscripts it also leads Europe, and its treasures in Arabic are very many. It is said that the last librarian knew about one hundred and fifty languages. Books and Publications.

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INTIMATE CHINA. The Chinese as I Have Seen Them. By Mrs. Archibald Little With 120 illustrations. Royal 8vo, pp. 615. G. B. Lippincott Company.)

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then game was plenty.
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